



CITY COUNCIL

Public Works Committee

Monday, May 19 2008
Meeting Report

Attendance: M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, Chair; D. Sterner, S. Fuhs

Others Attending: V. Spencer, C. Younger, C. Jones, L. Kelleher, R. Hottenstein, representatives from St. James Church, D. Hoag, O. Smith, representing PARC

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, Chair, called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 5:48 pm.

I. Orange and Cherry St Lot Update

Mr. Hottenstein stated that the Administration will be seeking an amendment to the CD budget to provide funding to cover the cost of the park improvement for the Orange and Cherry Street lot. They advised St. James church to obtain an application form from Mr. Nemeth, in the Community Development Department.

Reverend McCracken inquired about the total the City is willing to contribute to the project, which will allow St. James Church to begin applications for matching grant dollars for the project. He noted St. James willingness to take ownership of the lot and complete the project if the City is unwilling to contribute.

Reverend McCracken stated that Bill Vitale, who originally designed the Park Plan, is currently working with St. James Church to finalize the plan.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz and Mr. Spencer noted the need for the project to be complete by October if unused CD dollars are allocated. They asked Mr. Jones if a project estimate has been prepared. Mr. Jones replied that Public Works will base the estimate on similar projects completed in the past.

Mr. Younger stated that he drafted a letter to the owner of the remaining 2 parcels, inquiring about their willingness to either donate the land to the project or at a minimum participate in the project.

St. James Church members they noted that during a conversation with the owner of the parcels (currently the owner of the Win Outlet on Penn Street) stated that they were unaware that they owned the parcels on the Orange and Cherry Street lot.

Reverend McCracken stated that if the two parcels are transferred to support the project a half court will be provided for basketball use however, if the parcels are not included this will be excluded.

Members of St. James Church and Reverend McCracken were reminded to obtain an application form Mr. Nemeth from the CD Department.

II. Amendment of PARC Ordinance

Ms. Kelleher stated that she contacted the United Way Olivet, PAL and the YMCA. All three agencies expressed interest and excitement about participating. Mr. Smith representing the Park & Rec. advisory Committee distributed a packet summarizing the material covered at a recent PSATS training for Park & Recreation Advisory Committees.

Mr. Waltman joined the Public Works Committee meeting at this time.

Mr. Waltman and Ms. Goodman -Hinnershitz stated that they are pleased to hear that the PARC will be refreshed and reenergized.

Mr. Waltman expressed his belief in the merit of the Recreation Program and the need for PARC to expand recreation opportunities in a manner that will attract the entire Reading community. He also asked the group to consider initiating a program that will provide summer job opportunities for teenagers and young adults.

Mr. Smith agreed with the need for PARC to review Recreation Programs and recommend changes where applicable.

Mr. Spencer noted the difficulty in continuing to provide General Fund support to for Recreation Programs. He expressed hope that the expanded group will explore shared resources to provide recreation services.

Mr. Smith agreed noting that partnerships with athletic associations, to share the cost of programs and facility maintenance, was discussed at the PSATS training session.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that following the adoption of the amended ordinance Council will hold a planning meeting with the PARC to discuss and define their scope and mission.

Mr. Smith suggested adding a removal clause for members who do not regularly attend PARC meetings.

Ms. Kelleher agreed that the lack of removal language has caused problems with a variety of other Boards Authorities and Commissions. She noted that the Human Relations Commission legislation and Board of Health legislation were amended to include removal language. She stated that she and Ms. Katzenmoyer have been reviewing Boards Authorities and Commissions legislation and will be making a recommendation for the addition of the removal clause in other legislation.

The Public Works committee asked Ms. Kelleher to revise the PARC ordinance to include a removal clause.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for the City and PARC to asses large recreation areas and consider the City's ability to maintain the property and make recommendations for partnerships where applicable.

Mr. Waltman returned to the Administrative and Land Use Committee meeting at this time.

III. Storm Water Management Ordinance

Ms. Hoag stated that the staff is currently working to merge the Tulpehocken Storm Water Ordinance with the Schuylkill River Storm Water Ordinance. Staff is currently considering the addition of a fee for plan review and other technical issues. She stated that this ordinance should be ready for introduction by the end of June.

IV. Storm Water Utility Fee

Mr. Jones stated that the initial phase is complete. The next phase, undertaken by a consultant, will build the rate and fee schedule. An RFP to obtain a consultant should be out by mid June.

Mr. Jones stated that the adoption of Storm Water Utility Fee will allow the Public Works to continue consolidating operations. The fee will cover the cost of services provided such as street sweeping, catch basin repair and cleaning, etc.

Ms. Goodman- Hinnershitz suggested that Mr. Jones provide talking points to Council to assist with the educational process.

Ms. Hoag noted the need for extensive public education on the Storm Water Utility Fee. She suggested an educational brochure similar to the rain and drain brochure produced after the flood in regard to litter and the storm water system.

V. Consent Decree Update

Mr. Jones stated that staff is currently finalizing the interview process for a project and construction manager. The field has been narrowed down to two firms. Currently staff is considering the option of hiring one firm to attend to both the project and construction manager position or hiring two individual firms to perform this service. A list of final questions has been sent to both firms. A recommendation to Council should occur no later than the first meeting in June.

Ms. Hoag provided an update on the design phase of the Waste Water Treatment Plant facility. Currently geotechnical borings and treat-ability testing is occurring. A report on the design will be available at the end of August. The project and construction managers will participate in the design process as soon as they are brought on board.

There was next a discussion of the need to relocate the Canal Street pumping stations in response to the Riverview Project being presented by Gianasca.

Mr. Spencer inquired if the Waste Water Collection System will be evaluated before the final design is complete. Mr. Jones stated that the collections systems will be evaluated at the same time the Design Phase is occurring. He noted that no collection system is perfect and inflow and infiltration will always occur. He noted that the new plant is being built to treat a standard amount of I&I (inflow and infiltration) and the required corrections will be made to the collections system.

The Public Work Committee meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Kelleher, City Clerk

Follow Up Issues

- The ability of United Way to Provide funding financial assistance for the Orange and Cherry Street PARC project –R. Hottenstein
- Amendment of PARC ordinance to include removal clause - L Kelleher
- Forum with PARC Board after an accident of the amended ordinance – L Kelleher
- Introduction of the Storm Water Management Ordinance second meeting in June – D. Hoag, C. Jones
- RFP for Storm Water Utility Fee advertised by mid June – C. Jones
- Talking points on the implementation of the Storm Water Utility Fee for Council along with an educational brochure – C. Jones, D. Hoag
- Recommendation for the award of contract for the Project and Construction manager for the Waste Water Treatment Plant project first meeting in June – C. Jones, D. Hoag
- Report of the Design of the Waste Water Treatment Project-August Public Works Committee meeting C. Jones, D. Hoag